

REMARKS

Claims 3, 5, 10, 12, 14 and 21-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3, 10, 12 and 14 are amended; claims 21-24 are added; and claims 1 and 20 are canceled.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 10, 12 and 14 contain allowable subject matter. In response, the claims are amended in independent form to place the application in condition for allowance. Claims 3 and 5 are repeated as added claims for independent claims 12 and 14.

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 5 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP A 11-103022 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,034,864 to Naito et al. In response, claims 1 and 20 are canceled, and claim 3 is amended to depend from claim 10.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 3, 5, 10, 12, 14 and 21-24 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Richard J. Kim
Registration No. 48,360

JAO:RJK/mdw

Date: February 24, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
